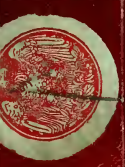

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Ira Harris

MEMORIAL

OF

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Memorial of Ira Harris.

MEMOIR.

Ira Harris was born on the 31st day of May, 1802, at Charleston in the county of Montgomery and state of New York. He was the son of Frederick Waterman Harris, and the eldest of a family of ten children. His mother's maiden name was Lucy Hamilton. His parents removed from Charleston in 1808 to Preble, Cortland county, and settled upon a farm of some four hundred acres — rich valley and mountain land — where by thrift and diligence they secured to their children a condition in life superior to that they had enjoyed. They were both natives of the state; on the father's side of English and on the mother's of Scotch ancestry. The first paternal ancestor in this country came from Deal, England, and joined the "colonists led by Roger Williams to the shores of Narragansett." The first maternal ancestor in America emigrated from Glasgow, Scotland.

Ira attended the district school of the neighborhood, until the year 1815, when he entered the academy in the village of Homer — five miles distant from his home — where he pursued his preparatory collegiate studies. In September, 1822, he joined the junior class in Union college at Schenectady, and graduated with the first honors in 1824.

Having determined to pursue the legal profession, he returned to Homer and became a student in the law office

of Augustus Donnelly, continuing there for one year. With a view of obtaining better advantages for the prosecution of his studies, he then moved to Albany and entered the office of Chief Justice Ambrose Spencer. Here he remained as a student until 1827, when he was admitted to the bar and began his professional career in the capital of the Empire state. He soon after associated himself in the practice of the law with his fellow student in college, Salem Dutcher. This continued until 1842, when, Mr. Dutcher removing to New York, Mr. Harris formed a partnership with Julius Rhoades.

It was not long after his admission to the bar before his sterling traits and ability made themselves felt. His knowledge of the law and untiring assiduity, brought him conspicuously before the public and made for him a place of at least equality among the most distinguished of his compeers. Thoroughly conversant with his case, complete with all the bearings of the law upon it, the decisions affecting it marshaled in order, these with his deep mellow voice, his calm, measured and persuasive style of speaking, his methodical arrangement of matter, the logic of his argument, his frank, open manner, his noble presence and dignified bearing, all combined to influence courts in his favor and to exhibit his case in the light of apparent truth.

He was fond of the law and respected his profession, believing the former to be the bulwark of all civil rights and the shield of society; and deeming the latter the vehicle of the former, in erecting its safeguards and indicating its justice. Equity jurisprudence was the predominant favorite in his studies, and its practice more consonant with his nature, abhorring as it did trickery and chicanery in all the legal pathways.

The great public recognized these qualities, and in 1844 Mr. Harris was elected to represent Albany county in the assembly of his native state, and in the following

year was reëlected. He at once became a leading member of the house and took an active part in its debates. In the spring of 1846 he was chosen to the distinguished honor of a seat in the convention of that year appointed to revise the constitution of the state.

In this eminent and dignified body, Mr. Harris took a high and honorable stand. His imposing appearance and bland address, no less than his profound learning, made him conspicuous. His comprehensive mind embraced fully the subject for which the convention had been called and every branch appertaining received his careful attention. Especially did the changes made in the organic law by abolishing all traces of feudalism from land tenures, by securing to married women their rights in property, inherited and acquired, by establishing an elective judiciary, by uniting law and equity jurisdiction, and by providing for the simplification of pleadings and practice in the courts, receive powerful aid from his eloquent advocacy. Although in the minority his influence was felt and acknowledged, and his views were treated with marked respect.

In the autumn of the same year he was elected to the state senate and after serving there with distinction through one session he resigned his seat, upon being elected in the spring of 1847 a justice of the supreme court of the state, drawing the four years' term.

Such rapid and even dazzling advancement has occurred to but few, and proves how high Mr. Harris stood in the estimation of his fellow-men.

At the expiration of his term of four years, and in the year 1851, he was reëlected judge for the entire term of eight years.

The reputation of Judge Harris at the bar had been long established, but it was not till his elevation to the bench that his abilities were fully displayed. It then ap-

peared that he was peculiarly possessed of qualities which rendered him a consummate judge. He exhibited profound and accurate knowledge of the law, great judicial capacity, strict integrity and severe impartiality. His demeanor was dignified and courteous. His understanding, sagacity and industry won praise from all parties. The lofty purity and rigid morality which pervaded his whole life and formed its chief characteristics shone conspicuously in the discharge of his judicial duties. He was quick to grasp the general rights and equities of a case and tenacious in holding to them against the sophistry and technicalities of professional learning. While possessing great power in despatching business, he still gave patient attention to all suits and arguments, and by unusual suavity of manner, without lessening the dignity of the judge, he gained great popularity with all who came within the purview of the court. His charges to juries were models of excellence in the clearness and impartiality with which the facts proven and the law bearing upon them were presented.

The published opinions of Judge Harris during the twelve years he sat upon the bench are continually referred to for lucid exhibition of the principles of the law. They evince extensive learning and keen discernment — power of analysis and strength of reasoning — subtlety in weighing doubtful decisions and perspicuity in style. They will ever prove the true monument to his memory — more enduring than bronze or granite.

Upon leaving the bench Judge Harris passed a year in foreign travel. Returning home he was in 1861, after an exciting contest, elected by the legislature to the senate of the United States. To appreciate this distinguished honor it needs but to be stated, that William M. Evarts and Horace Greeley were his competitors and that he was the successor of William H. Seward. He had passed

triumphantly through the various grades of advocate, state legislator, member of the state convention, and justice of the supreme court of the state, and had now reached an eminence next to the loftiest summit in the republic.

In the broad and distinguished arena of the senate, the corresponding qualities of Senator Harris were eminently manifested. His tall and majestic form was seen in that famed chamber, moving in the consciousness of strength yet in the humility of a retiring nature. His merits were immediately recognized. Placed upon the committee on foreign relations, the judiciary and the select joint committee on the southern states, his services upon these exceedingly important committees were most prominent and valuable. His industry was as persistent as his more shining qualities were great. He exerted vast influence in shaping the course of government during the most trying period of our national history.

He was the intimate and trusted friend of President Lincoln, and perhaps no fact could be adduced more plainly showing the solid and excellent qualities of the senator than that he held such relationship to that eminently pure, wise and shrewd statesman, as learned in human nature, as noble in all his other attributes. In his darkest hours of administration Abraham Lincoln always found light in the coöperation of Senator Harris, and in his saddest moments of despondency, sympathy and support.

The senator's loyalty to the union was intense, and from the side of the north he never for an instant swerved. During the civil war he was most efficient in raising a regiment of cavalry for the union, which was called after his name, as was also another body of troops. In private and public his patriotic voice was ever heard in defense of the union, stimulating still farther the ardent, and transfusing his own glowing energy into the lukewarm. Many an officer and private soldier has reason to remember the acts of

kindness received at his hands, and no one can now realize the arduous labor and fatigue he endured in behalf of our armies.

Although Senator Harris was warmly attached, upon principle, to the Whig and Republican parties, and, as we have seen, was chosen by his party to fill many prominent offices, yet strictly, he was not a politician, and had little taste or tact for political management. His action was guided by his judgment of the right regardless of popular effect. This was evinced in the case of the expulsion of Senator Bright of Indiana. Before hostilities had commenced between the North and the South Mr. Bright wrote a letter introducing to Jefferson Davis a friend who wished "to dispose of what he regards a great improvement in fire-arms." The Republicans in the Senate and the party generally deemed this letter evidence of treason and demanded the expulsion of the Senator. Mr. Harris yielded to none of his associates in the intensity of his loyalty to the Union or in the bitterness of his hatred of treason, but his judicial mind failed to discover in the letter conclusive proof that it was written with a treasonable design, and following this conviction he stepped up on a plane higher than that of party and defended the Indiana Senator.

In 1867 the term of Senator Harris expired, but his constituency, unwilling that his abilities should be hidden in retirement, elected him delegate to the state constitutional convention of that year. This was the second time he was deemed worthy of that honor — an honor that rarely falls to the lot of any one.

His speech in that convention on "Government of Cities" was rich in knowledge and wisdom, and was conceded to be one of the most powerful and eloquent that was delivered upon any subject in that body, comprising some of the ablest and most distinguished citizens of the state.

Upon the adjournment of the convention Mr. Harris, who had been in public office for twenty-three years continuously, became released from official cares and anxieties. His, had been a busy and laborious life. He had achieved greatness. Now, as the shadows were deepening on the downward path, it might naturally be supposed that he would, during the remainder of the journey, enjoy that rest and repose which he had so richly earned. He was passionately fond of the country, and had a farm at Loudonville near the city, to which, when relieved from duty, he repaired with delight, and from which he never departed without regret. But to him ease was inglorious, while vigor remained. Hence he at once addressed himself to the great work of imparting to others his own professional knowledge. He had been connected with the Albany Law school from its organization in 1850, and lectured to the students whenever his official duties permitted. He now accepted the appointment of professor of equity jurisprudence and practice and devoted himself wholly to the school up to the time of his decease. The themes he had chosen were kindred to his tastes and he never failed to impart to his young pupils something of his own enthusiasm in the pursuit of knowledge and his own high purposes in its use after being acquired. His lectures proved eminently successful and popular and worthy of his reputation.

Mr. Harris was likewise distinguished as a friend to liberal education. He was for many years president of the board of trustees of Union college, where his ripe culture and broad educational views were exhibited and esteemed. He was president of the Albany Medical college and of the board of trustees of Vassar college; was one of the founders of the Rochester university and its first and only chancellor.

He rarely turned aside from professional and official paths for enjoyment in the fields of literature. He was,

however, twice lured to the platform, from his usual pursuits, by subjects very inviting to him. In 1846, he enjoyed an opportunity of revisiting the scenes of his early student-life and pronouncing the oration on the occasion of a jubilee anniversary of the old academy at Homer. Again, a few years later, he was equally pleased by delivering, at the invitation of friends in Albany, a lecture upon the life and character of Roger Williams.

To complete his successful career Mr. Harris added the graces of the Christian gentleman. He held for a long term of years the office of deacon in the Emmanuel church in Albany and was also president of the American Baptist Missionary Union.

Mr. Harris leaves a widow, four daughters and two sons.

In 1869 he suffered a slight attack of paralysis, which his robust constitution so quickly repelled that on the following day he conferred the degrees upon the students at the commencement exercises of Union college. As the years came on, however, the attack was occasionally repeated, each time with increased force. Although none of these attacks impaired his splendid physical shape, yet they took from his step its elasticity and threw over his handsome and benevolent features a look of weariness.

At last on Sunday, the 28th day of November, 1875, he received a shock which prostrated him and rendered him unconscious. He remained in that state until the following Thursday — the 2d day of December — when at the hour of nine and a half in the morning, life departed, and that grand and manly form, never again to know fatigue, is now at rest in the Rural Cemetery of Albany.

To Ira Harris was granted distinguished abilities and shining virtues. He was crowned with success in life. The grave has closed over his remains, but his memory will be revered so long as talent is honored and worth venerated.

EXTRACTS FROM THE PRESS.

[From the *Albany Evening Journal*, December 2, 1875.]

Death of Judge Harris.

THE illness of Judge Harris terminated this morning in his death. The announcement will be received with sincere sorrow not only by this entire community but throughout the state and far beyond its borders. For half a century the lamented dead had stood among our most illustrious citizens — foremost, indeed, in public distinction. But he was more than the honored representative of a locality — he was one of the first men of the state. Still more, he had held and dignified a high national position. In every sphere he won respect and esteem. A worthy citizen, an able lawyer, a faithful legislator, an upright judge, a learned instructor, an eminent senator and an earnest Christian, he lived a long and useful career, and in the fullness of his years sinks to rest with a wreath of honor.

Ira Harris was born in Charleston, Montgomery county, on the 31st of May, 1802. Both of his parents were natives of this state; but back of them he traced his lineage to the little earnest and intrepid colony founded by Roger Williams on the shore of the Narragansett, from which he fairly inherited his religious associations and convictions. At the age of fifteen, he entered the Homer academy in Cortland county, and went thence to Union college, where he graduated in 1824. Among his prominent classmates were Bradford R. Wood of this city, Judge Sutherland and William Tracy of New York — the latter long associated with him as trustees of their *Alma*

Mater. Judge Parker was a junior in Union at the same time. Leaving college young Harris came to this city and studied law in the office of Ambrose Spencer—then one of our brightest legal lights. In 1827 he was admitted to practice, and formed a partnership with Salem Dutcher, who had been a fellow student at college. The firm speedily acquired great prominence and for many years prosecuted a very large and successful business. In 1842 it was dissolved by the retirement of Mr. Dutcher, who removed to New York, and Mr. Harris then associated himself in the practice of law with Julius Rhoades.

His entrance upon public life was made in 1844 when he was elected to the assembly. The following year he was reëlected, and in 1846 he was chosen to the senate where he served one session. The same year he was elected a delegate to the constitutional convention that gave us the organic law under which, with some amendments, the state is living to-day. Michael Hoffman was the political leader and master mind of that body, and among other members were Samuel J. Tilden, Charles O'Conor, Arphaxad Loomis, Ambrose L. Jordan and Lemuel Stetson. Though Mr. Harris belonged to the minority, he nevertheless bore a prominent part in the work of the convention, and held honorable rank among these distinguished and experienced men. Continuing his public career without interruption, he was in 1847 elected judge of the supreme court under the new constitution and drew the four years' term. Upon its expiration, he was again elected for the full term of eight years. He thus served upon the bench for twelve years, and gained great distinction as an acute and upright jurist. Indeed, he was peculiarly and conspicuously fitted for judicial service. His whole port and mien, his stately figure and his dignified bearing gave all the outward adornments and seemed singularly suited to the position of judge. But with these external attributes he united in an equally

marked degree the more vital and essential qualities. He was a master of the principles and precedents of law. He understood the whole body of our jurisprudence and was guided by its best spirit. He grasped the beauty of equity as well as the rigorous interpretation of law. And with all this he possessed a happy gift for the lucid and succinct exposition of legal principles and their application, so that his decisions reported in the books have always held high rank as his action on the bench always commanded respect.

In 1861, Judge Harris was elected to the United States senate, his competitors in the republican caucus being Horace Greeley and William M. Evarts. Entering the senate just at the outbreak of the rebellion, he served throughout that momentous period of our history, and contributed by his counsels, his voice and his vote to the triumph of the Union cause. He was the warm personal friend of Abraham Lincoln, and after the dread Good Friday was among those chosen from the senate to accompany the remains of the beloved president to their final resting place. As a senator he held honorable rank upon the important committees on foreign relations and judiciary, and in the former was closely associated with Senator Sumner, to whom he became greatly attached. Indeed, the last time we ever saw Charles Sumner — some months before his death — was in the house of Judge Harris where these two friends discussed till late at night the situation of the country. Judge Harris was also a member of the select joint committee on the southern states, and, while he seldom spoke at length, he had an influential share in the vital legislation and action which that critical period required. His term as senator expired in 1867 and he was then chosen a delegate at large to the constitutional convention of this state which assembled that year. In the deliberations of that body his experience, ability and standing gave him prominence and weight.

Since that time he has devoted himself almost exclusively to his duties as professor of the Albany Law school, with which he has been identified from its establishment twenty years ago. His special department was equity jurisprudence and practice. He was an admirable lecturer, and won the regard of the students in an eminent degree both by his simple and luminous development of the law and by the encouragement and inspiration he imparted to the young men he was training for an arduous and responsible profession. At the same time he cherished a warm interest in other fields of educational work. For many years, and down to his death, he was president of the board of trustees of Union college. He was also one of the active founders of Rochester university and its first and only chancellor, remaining a member of the board of trustees from its establishment to the present time. A deacon of the Emmanuel Baptist church in this city, he has long been one of the most prominent lay representatives of his denomination in the country, and has been equally zealous and influential in its various organizations — having held among other places that of president of the Baptist Foreign Mission Society. He was a sincere Christian and lived a life without reproach.

The eminent citizen whom we mourn thus goes to his final rest full of years and honors. Not snapped away in the midst of his greatest usefulness, he was permitted to round out his career and substantially to finish his valuable work. He leaves the legacy of a good name and an influence which has made its impress upon his special spheres of activity and will be felt long after he has gone. In private life, in public station, in Christian labor he fulfilled every duty, and adorned a worthy life with a blameless character. Our citizens will extend their sympathy to the bereaved family, and will themselves unite as mourners in the obsequies which are announced in our local columns.

(From the local column.)

Death of Judge Harris.

Hon. Ira Harris, one of Albany's most distinguished sons, died this morning at a quarter past nine o'clock, of paralysis. A review of his life and services will be found on our second page.

The disease which terminated his life, first attacked him some six years ago in Schenectady, while in attendance upon the commencement exercises of Union college.

He soon rallied from the stroke, so as to be about as usual, but never after was in full health and strength. At intervals during the following years he had similar attacks of more or less severity, each of which sensibly subtracted from his vital forces.

Two Sundays ago, as he was about proceeding to church, he was struck with paralysis and was confined to his house for several days. He then began to mend and had so far recovered that on Saturday last he took the air in his carriage. On Sunday he had another attack and relapsed into unconsciousness, and remained in that state to the end.

The funeral will take place on Saturday afternoon from Dr. Bridgman's church. We are unable at this writing to give the hour.

Judge Harris leaves four daughers and two sons. The daughters are Mrs. Henry R. Rathbone, of Washington; Mrs. Ewing Miller, of Columbus, Ohio, and the two Misses Harris, of this city. Both the sons, William H. Harris and Ira Harris, reside in Kansas city.

[From the *Albany Argus*, December 3, 1875.]

A GREAT MAN HAS FALLEN.

IRA HARRIS: Born in Charleston, Montgomery county, May 31, 1802; died in Albany, December 2, 1875, 9:20 A.M.

IRA Harris was a great man in all the essentials and qualities of greatness. He was great in native endowment. A paternal ancestry traceable to the colonists led by Roger Williams to the shores of Narragansett, and an ancestry on his mother's side nurtured among the rugged, pure hills of Scotland, bequeathed to him talents and impulses rarely found blended in such due proportions.

Mr. Harris was great in power of application. He was a diligent and industrious student; and he maintained himself at the head of the jurists of the state by the same unremitting and indefatigable toil, to the very day of his death.

Mr. Harris was great in intellect. He bore upon his massive shoulders a head richly grand in its powers. His frame seemed modestly conscious of the superior texture of the brain it was constructed to support and feed. Courtly in bearing and manner, yet dignified and deferential to all; the might and majesty and humility of his mind and heart were revealed transfigured with singular clearness in his bodily structure.

Mr. Harris was great in his aspirations. He had no ambition for ephemeral distinction and renown. His desire was simply to know and to do right, as an enlightened and quickened conscience determined the right to be. He was great in nobility of character. He was a stalwart representative of all that is purest and brightest in mankind. He was great in his attainments. The splendors of his

genius were toned by a severely chaste and classical style; the wealth of treasure he brought up from the storehouses of judicial learning was illumined by lucid exposition of surpassing force, in simple beauty and compactness of expression.

Mr. Harris was great in his intuitions and sympathies. He was singularly endowed as an instructor in equity jurisprudence and practice. He loved the spirit of the law, more than its form; he believed it to be its highest mission to deal justly and equitably between men, rather than to give the weight of authority to tricksters who use its forms most dexterously. He was thus preëminently fitted for the judicial office, which he held so long and honorably.

Mr. Harris was likewise great in the calm equipoise of his nature. His defense of the senator from Indiana, Jesse D. Bright, will ever stand in conspicuous illustration of his self-control. He had no sympathy with treason; indeed, he loathed it with horror, and the warm impulses of his patriotic devotion to his country left no room for faltering in loyal service. At the same time he was impartial with no room for personal hatred, passionate revenge or partisan bitterness. Hence he took the part of Bright, an act which then brought denunciation, but which is to-day one of the brightest jewels in his crown.

Mr. Harris was great, also, in all the elements of Christian manhood. He held firmly to his own convictions. He held with equal firmness to the conviction that soul-liberty is the birthright of every Christian, and brotherly love, charity and liberality the highest expressions of Christian service.

Ira Harris could not have lived otherwise than a great career. His parents removed from Montgomery county to Cortland county in 1808. Until fifteen years of age, he devoted himself to his studies in a district school with industry; during his spare hours devouring with avidity

every valuable work he could procure. In 1815, he entered the Homer academy. In September, 1822, he entered the junior class in Union college, and graduated with the highest honors in 1824. He then returned to Cortland village, where he studied law with Augustus Donnelly for a year. Desiring better advantages for the prosecution of his studies, he came to Albany, bearing a letter of introduction from Donnelly to Ambrose Spencer, afterwards chief justice, and then one of the leading members of the Albany bar. During the two succeeding years, he remained in the office of Mr. Spencer; and, three years after graduating from college, he was admitted to the bar, and commenced the practice of his profession in this city. In 1827, he formed a partnership with Salem Dutcher, who had been a student with him at college. This partnership continued until 1842, when Mr. Dutcher removed to New York; and Mr. Harris associated himself with Julius Rhoades. Those who have only known Ira Harris, the judge, cannot form an adequate conception of Ira Harris, the eloquent pleader at the bar of court. He laid the foundations of his case in the most careful trenching among authorities, and upon the broadest principles of law; he enforced his case with a rhetorical and oratorical power which prepared the way for convictions that were strengthened by consideration of his closely logical and sinewy argument. Graceful in manner, commanding in appearance, impressive in diction, compact in logic, it is no wonder that Ira Harris, the lawyer, speedily rose to the first rank in his profession.

Mr. Harris was elected to the assembly in 1844, and re-elected in 1845, where he necessarily took an active and influential position. In 1846, he was chosen to the senate, where he served with distinction during one session. The same year he was elected delegate to the constitutional convention, and was one of the prominent members of the minority in that distinguished body.

Ira Harris was elected justice of the supreme court in 1847, drawing the four years' term, at the expiration of which he was reëlected for the full term of eight years. Here he distinguished himself for his marked leaning toward the equities of a case; and his published opinions are models of compactness, simplicity, perspicuity and cogency of style, thought and reasoning. In 1861, Judge Harris was elected a senator of the United States. Such men as he were needed during his stormy term. His moderation, his patriotism, his conservatism, his loyalty, his sturdy devotion to the right, fitted him to guide. He was one of the class of men upon whom the martyr-president could lean, in the hour of his greatest trials. There was no day so dark, that Ira Harris could not see light ahead; for his faith in God was to him as the gift of prophetic vision. There was no storm so tumultuous, whether of treason or of faction, that Ira Harris could not hear the words, "Peace, be still!" and he never doubted that the surging tempest would obey the command. There was never victory so great, opportunity for revenge and retaliation so tempting, that its fierce allurements were not abashed in the presence of his Christian magnanimity. He could not falter; neither could he indulge in vindictive ferocity. He was always there, steady, true, firm. His position as a member of the committee on foreign relations and judiciary, and the select joint committee on the southern states, utilized his wise moderation, marked prescience and inflexible purpose, in every critical relation of the republic. Senator Harris's term expired in 1867, when he was elected a delegate at large to the constitutional convention of 1867.

Since the adjournment of that body, Mr. Harris has devoted himself unremittingly to his duties as professor of equity jurisprudence and practice in the Albany Law school, for which he was admirably qualified. He could

condense in a brief lecture, and render clear to the minds of the students, the fundamental principles of equity; and by his quiet but firm enforcement of their beauty and mission in society, could fire their youthful blood with his warm regard for universal, even-handed and equitable justice.

Mr. Harris was an earnest friend of liberal education. He has been for many years president of the board of trustees of Union college, and in that relation has exhibited the ripe culture and rare abilities which have rendered him so distinguished. He was also one of the founders of the Rochester university, an institution of learning which is among the first in the country. He was its first and only chancellor, and has been a member of its board of trustees from its foundation.

Ira Harris was a deacon in Emmanuel Baptist church, and was warmly beloved for his philanthropy and Christian worth. He was held in high esteem by that denomination of Christians, of which he was an honorable and conspicuous representative. His counsels were sought in all its organizations, and he was zealous in his devotion to all its interests. Among other positions which he has held was that of president of the American Baptist Missionary Union.

Judge Harris leaves four daughters and two sons. The daughters are Mrs. Henry R. Rathbone, of Washington; Mrs. T. Ewing Miller, of Columbus, Ohio, and the two Misses Harris of this city. Both the sons, William H. Harris and Ira Harris, reside in Kansas city. He also leaves a brother, the Hon. Hamilton Harris, to mourn his loss. His first wife died several years since. His second wife survives him.

Mr. Harris has been afflicted with paralysis several times. His first attack was six years ago. Two Sundays ago, as he was about proceeding to church, he was struck with

paralysis. He then began to mend, and had so far recovered that on Saturday last he took the air in his carriage, and wanted his physician (Dr. Cox) to promise that he might go to church Sunday. The day came, and with it another attack of paralysis. He soon became unconscious, and remained so until the hour of his death, when he passed away quietly and peacefully.

Ira Harris has long borne the appearance, in our streets, of a shock of wheat, bowed with rich treasure, waiting to be garnered. He finished his career, leaving nothing to be desired. A pride and a blessing to his family, which he loved dearly; an ornament to society, which he appreciated and embellished; a pillar in the state and in the church, each of which was borne up by his strong nature — the legacy of his rich life is the common property of the community which now bends as mourners over his open sepulchre.

[From the *New York Examiner and Chronicle*, December 9, 1875.]

DEATH OF HON. IRA HARRIS.

HON. Ira Harris died at his home in Albany on Thursday, Dec. 2. Judge Harris was born in Charleston, Montgomery county, May 31, 1802. He fitted for college in Cortland academy, and graduated at Union college in 1824. He pursued the study of law with the Hon. Ambrose Spencer, gaining admission to the bar in 1827, and entering on what proved to be a prosperous and distinguished professional career. His public life began with an election to the assembly in 1844. He was chosen senator in 1846, and in the same year was elected to the constitutional convention which framed the constitution now, with some modification, in force. In 1847 he was elected a judge of the supreme court, and held the position for twelve years. In 1861 he was elected to the United States senate, serving through the war and the first two years of peace. He was a member of the constitutional convention of 1867. On the organization of the Albany Law school, twenty years ago, he was elected a professor, an office which he held till his death. His public reputation was highest in his strictly professional life, as an advocate, a judge, and a professor of law. His knowledge was extensive and exact, his treatment of a subject lucid, his manner singularly grave and impressive, yet always pleasant.

But to us and to our readers Judge Harris comes most vividly into memory in his relations to higher objects. He was a member and deacon of the old Pearl street, now the Emmanuel Baptist church of Albany. From 1850 to 1859 he was chairman of the board of managers of the American Baptist Missionary Union. During that period,

and for some years after, the greater part of the real business of the missionary union was transacted by the board, the union electing the board, and occasionally instructing it, leaving in its hands for the most part the origination and disposal of particular measures. The board meetings under his presidency were admirably conducted. His imposing presence commanded respect, which his gentle considerateness of manner and speech made it very easy to render. The friction between board and union that led to a change of the constitution and the relegation of the board to a secondary position, had no existence while he was chairman. In 1862 he was elected president of the missionary union, and held the office for four years. We have had exceedingly impressive meetings of the missionary union in years since. That society has usually been fortunate in its presiding officers. But it was a golden era in that respect, when we had a Briggs in the chair of the union, and a Harris in that of the board.

Judge Harris was a trustee of Union college, and also of the University of Rochester. Of the latter he was chancellor from its foundation to his death. He was a trustee of Vassar college, and on the death of William Kelly was elected president of the board, continuing in the office during his remaining years. With Friend Humphrey and others, he was a strong supporter of the church in the pastorate of Dr. Welch, and since; and he always bore himself as an earnest and conscientious Christian.

He had an attack of paralysis six years ago, and the stroke had been three times repeated, yet he rallied so promptly from each attack that until the last and fatal one reached him he scarcely suffered noticeable loss of vigor, beyond the inevitable decline of age.

[From the *Watchman and Reflector*, Boston, Dec 9th, 1875.]

DEATH OF HON. IRA HARRIS.

IT is with a sad heart we announce the death, at Albany, N. Y., on the 2d inst., of Hon. Ira Harris, so well known in our land and especially in connection with our denominational benevolent work, during the last thirty years. He had occupied eminent positions in civil and political life, as judge of supreme court of the state of New York, United States senator from the Empire state, lecturer on law in Union university, etc., but was never more truly honored than when he presided over the interests of the Baptist Missionary Union. He was a noble man and lived to a good old age. In person he was regal and imposing, his face was exceedingly agreeable and genial, and his heart was as warm and tender as a child's. God gives to the world but few men so grand in physique, in mind and in heart, and at the same time with so beautiful a simplicity of character and freedom from all assumption and arrogance.

FUNERAL PROCEEDINGS.

THE last sad rites were solemnized over the remains of the late Ira Harris, on Saturday, December 4, 1875, in the Emmanuel Baptist church. The spacious edifice was none too large to accommodate the mourners that assembled to do honor to the memory of the late jurist and statesman. The array of distinguished personages that attended the funeral was a fitting recognition of the high esteem in which the deceased was held. The executive was represented by William T. Pelton; the state officers by Lieut. Gov. Dorsheimer and Attorney-General Fairchild; the court of appeals by Chief Judge Church and associate Judges Folger and Rapallo; the city government by Mayor Judson, Recorder Greene, Alderman Bailey and other members of the common council; the faculty of Union college by President Potter. The law and medical schools were also present in a body, as well as the trustees of the Mechanics and Farmers' bank, Albany Cemetery association, and deacons and trustees of the Emmanuel Baptist church, and a large delegation of the Albany county bar. Among the prominent personages present, in addition to those already mentioned, were the following clergymen: Blayney, Upson, Reese, Smart, Magee, Loomis, Morse and Doane.

The central seats of the church, except seats reserved for the family of the deceased, were entirely occupied by representatives of the Albany county bar, and the law and medical students. The rosewood casket, massively mounted with silver, containing the remains, was deposited

immediately in front of the pulpit, and the display of floral offerings placed upon and about it was of the most profuse and elaborate character. They were gifts of friends of the deceased.

Among the immediate family present were Mr. William H. Harris, son of the deceased, and wife, Mr. Henry R. Rathbone and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Ewing Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton Harris and family, Mr. and Mrs. S. O. Shepard, and family, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Warner, Mr. and Mrs. Cyrus Garnsey, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Ransom, Mr. and Mrs. Albion Ransom, Gen. and Mrs. Townsend, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Rathbone, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Reed, Mr. and Mrs. John F. Rathbone, Mrs. Joel Reed, Mr. and Mrs. Oliver, Mr. and Mrs. Bowditch.

The pulpit was occupied by Rev. Dr. C. DeW. Bridgman, pastor, Rev. Dr. E. Halley, of the Third Presbyterian church, and President J. H. Raymond, of Vassar college. The funeral services were opened shortly after two o'clock with an organ voluntary by Prof. S. B. Belding, suited to the occasion, after which Rev. Dr. Bridgman offered the following

INVOCATION.

O GOD, who art the God of the spirits of all flesh, in whose hand our breath is, and whose are all our ways, we revere and acknowledge Thee as the High and Lofty One who inhabitest eternity, whose name is Holy. We look up to Thee as a Father of infinite tenderness, reconciling us to Thyself in Thy dear Son; and, as a Father pitieth his own children, so having compassion on all them that fear Thee. We would bow with deep humility before the righteousness of Thy will. In Thy sanctuary we wait with our dead that we may hearken to Thy words of consolation. Help us in our sorrow, O God; uphold us

and comfort us for the sake of Thy dear Son, our Saviour. Amen.

After a selection by the quartette, Dr. Bridgman delivered the following feeling and appropriate discourse, commanding the closest attention throughout, and moving many of his auditors to tears:

Dr. Bridgman's Address.

It is told by a traveler that once when walking through one of the squares of Vienna, the soldiers whom he was following came suddenly to a halt, and whilst the standards were waved and the drums rolled, went through the exercise of a salute. Asking the reason of so abrupt a manœuvre, he was told that such was the greeting which was given the meridian hour — the honor they were accustomed to pay to the Sun, when he had reached the supreme point of his splendor and power.

A vast procession is halting to-day, and in the sad rites which are compelled by the hour, those who are enlisted in this service, masters of colleges and masters of industry, possessors of intellectual culture and professional skill, and those who have won honor in the arenas of prosperous toil; ruler and leader, teacher and student and workman, all equally the soldiers of duty, are moved by the one impulse not to do honor to that which shines in their eyes in its fulness of splendor, but to utter their sorrow because a glory is gone, because the most honored and illustrious of our citizens is withdrawn from us unto the presence of God. All mourn together for the void that is made — the lowly for the loss of a friend; the student for one who had sympathy for his struggles and encouragement for his work; the teacher that he is bereaved of a prudent, wise counselor; the citizen for a man who was never unfaithful to the trust reposed in him by the state; the Christian

for one who evinced in his life the humanity and goodness which revealed the strength and beauty of faith; this church for an officer who gave her his strength in the time of her weakness, and whom she delighted to honor for his loyalty to her faith and her interest through all the years of her history.

The death of Ira Harris is the bereavement of us all. All "they that know his name" join in the one exclamation of sorrow, "How is the strong staff broken and the beautiful rod." But lamentation has no place in the sanctuary to-day. The sun is not robbed of his splendor when he passes beyond the horizons of earth; that marks the dawn of his glory on superior worlds; and what we signalize in our mourning as the ending of a noble career is only the transit of life with all its real riches to a larger and more glorious world. Let our belief, therefore, be the inspiration of joy; and as love has transfigured her tears into flowers for the casket, so let our faith change the lament into a hymn of thanksgiving that the departed has come to his grave in a full age; like as a shock of corn cometh in his season, and has entered upon his inheritance in the presence of God.

In the vast range of the universe there is no being, not even the chiefs of the angels, so rich as the man who bears up the treasures of a good life through death into the mansions of eternity. Once the most feeble, dependent of creatures — sustained by the care and ministrations of others; and then the richest, the strongest, the most imperial of them all. The link between them is a godly life. Such a life is like God's thought, a progress and gathering riches and lustre as it travels, whilst ungodliness makes life a circuit; it emerges from the darkness, seems but to grow rich and strong for the moment, but sinks down again into beggary and misery, and the blackness of darkness overwhelms it forever. A good life is continually

increasing in riches. The child is rich in the love and ministry which he has a right to demand; but he is poor in independent power, independent possessions, independent companions and friends. The work of life is to win them, to lay hand on the things that are requisite for the nurture and culture of the being, and to lay the touch of the heart on the persons whose love and communion it needs. Compare the man and the woman in the maturity of their powers with what they were in their childhood. They have made for themselves a name and a position in life; they are centres of attraction to an army of friends; little ones are growing up in their home who yield them that reverent obedience which they pay to their Father in Heaven.

Knowledge has been acquired, the universe has unveiled to them some of its secrets, the past is peopled with heroic shapes, the future with visions which the eye of faith alone is strong enough to steadfastly behold. How rich has life become to them; how full are its treasure-houses of power, knowledge and love. Trace the life onwards. At seventy, the helpless, possessionless infant has grown into a patriarch whose white hairs are a glory and before whom men joyfully bow. His wisdom has grown ripe with experience, his affections and sympathies rich with multiplied ministries, he fills the place of a prince in his circle, and when he falls it is the bereavement of a multitude, as the quenching of a great light. A wide company feel themselves beggared awhile by his loss. And the link between the two ends is uprightness — the uprightness of the man who has an eye heavenward, who looks whither he was intended to look — toward eternity and to God.

Of the treasures, however, which a man gathers, there are two which are transcendent — knowledge and love; and of these the supremely excellent is love. That which is stored in the mind, that which is garnered up in the

heart, is the real treasure: the rest is a mere surplus, which, having, the man is no richer; while he who loses it is no poorer in the estimation of the heavenly world. There are men upon whom fortune has lavished her treasures of gold; the world stands, cap in hand, at their feet.

But they would give at this moment half of their fortune and count it no sacrifice, to have the disciplined brain of the poor student whose jerkin is threadbare and whose table offers only coarse fare; yea more than that would they give for the throngs of true friends whose voices make music for others, and whose benedictions follow the steps of the genial and loving.

To know and to love! These are the directions in which to seek the true riches. They bring with them no sorrow; the moth does not waste them; rust does not corrupt them; death, even, does not despoil them; they are only transfigured and inscribed in the book of the treasures of eternity. And how are we to win them? "My son, forget not my law, but let thine heart keep my commandments, for length of days and long life and peace shall they add to thee. Let not mercy and truth forsake thee; bind them about thy neck: write them upon the table of thine heart; so shalt thou find favor and good understanding in the sight of God and man. Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding. She is more precious than rubies; and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her. Length of days is in her right hand; and in her left hand riches and honor." This is the secret of life. Thus is the sphynx riddle read. There is no other way to make life a progress but to root it in God. This is the condition of growth, of expansion and riches that will be always increasing as the ages roll on.

But there is a higher development of this law of increase through death, for God through our Lord Jesus Christ has made death the minister of the highest development,

of the intensest and most permanent joys. As a physical experience, death remains with us; blessed be God! "for we who are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened." There is nothing in this aspect to make Him seem terrible to the godly. All that we know of the death which is around us in nature speaks to us of courage and hope. There is no destruction of anything in the physical world; forms perish, but it is only that their substance may be fashioned to a different shape. Everything dies; "Ashes to ashes, dust to dust," is the legend which is written on the brow of each creature; but that dust remains precious and sacred. God fails not to rebuild it in more beautiful forms and to much nobler use. The dead leaves of the autumn are the nourishment of the germs of the on-coming spring. No material is dissolved but that it may reäppear in more glorious aspect; no type ever is broken but that God may recast it in more heavenly moulds. Through death there has been a continual progress in the aspects and the forms of creation. The huge, unwieldy types which of old ruled in the animal and vegetable world have been removed, and out of their ashes has sprung the young phœnix of creation which is the meet satellite of man. And why should we tremble at the presence of death? Why should we dread that the law which rules through the whole sphere of creation should stop here with man, and that death, which is only the transfiguration of nature, will wreck and destroy the whole human world? Why, but because man is a spirit and his spiritual relations are supreme, and they, if out of harmony with God, will make discord and dread within all the boundaries of his sphere.

But the Christian is delivered from this; he need as little fear death as the creature; nay, as he sees the glory to which it can lead him, he can exult in the prospect and strain to meet it as a child toward the arms of its mother, or as the exile, returning, presses forward toward home.

And this is the counsel of God, to take away from us all fear in the prospect of death; to show us that the progress is not rounded but prolonged and completed, and that the increase of the years is not gathered but consecrated by death as the possession of the soul in eternity. And the grand witness of this is our Lord Jesus Christ, the elder brother of the family in heaven. "In my father's house are many mansions; I go to prepare a place for you, and if I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto myself, that where I am ye may be also." "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who, according to His abundant mercy, hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

"Oh, death, where is thy sting? O, grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law, but thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

The true riches of life gathered by godliness — the true riches of life consecrated by death to be a possession forever — these are the thoughts which have been suggested by the life and the death of the man whom we mourn for to-day. The springs of his life were in God; he walked humbly before Him as His servant, and, I call you to witness, he realized the grand promise which abides for the ages. "Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him; I will set him on high, because he hath known my name. He shall call upon me and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him. With long life will I satisfy him and show him my salvation."

God has remembered His promise, it has been fulfilled in your sight — "Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him; I will set him on high, because he hath known my name. He shall call upon me

and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him. With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation."

For almost fifty years Ira Harris honored the profession he made in baptism by a life of truth, purity and integrity; for more than forty years he has served as an officer in the fellowship of this church, and more glorious than any record of political honors is the testimony that has been uttered again and again by his pastors and brethren to the faithfulness of his service; and that much of the earlier success of the church was due, under God, to his wisdom in guiding its action, and to the whole-hearted response that he gave to whatever appealed to his devotion.

With the daily incidents of that life you are already familiar. The man in the beauty and dignity of his physical form has been no stranger to you on the street. That men respected his character and gave him their trust is evinced by the positions of honor they gave him, each in advance of that which preceded, until at the last he was honored with a place in the senate in testimony of the faith of the state in his truth, his integrity, his wisdom, his loyalty.

He took the side of the faith he professed when there were but few in this city who held it, but it commended itself to his conscience and mind as being in harmony with the teaching of scripture, and in the long history since he proved his allegiance by a faithful and zealous adherence. But it is more to live the life of a Christian, good friends, than to be zealous for a creed or a sect; and his glory it ever will be that the truth was maintained in the spirit of love, and that he walked humbly with God; that he strove to be the helper of others; and that, filling out the full measure of his years, he is borne down to his grave with no stain on his character; and that his children have, as a heritage, that good name which is better than

riches, for that is a symbol of a character which is itself the true riches — which increases in glory for ever and ever.

There will be many who will utter their gratitude for the man who, when they were making the first struggle in professional life, were helped by his counsel and cheered by his sympathy; generous testimony will be given to his integrity as a judge and the wisdom and permanence of his decisions; to his industry in the conventions of which once and again he was a member; to the service he rendered the nation when the agony of our civil war was upon us.

But that which was underneath all the acts they applaud, all the attributes they commend, was a heart that was surrounded by the love and the guidance of God. This is the foundation of the strength that endures, this is the secret of real power in the world, this alone the condition of honor and power in the world everlasting.

> "Oh, who would live if only just to breathe
> This idle air, and indolently run,
> Day after day, the still returning round
> Of life's mean offices and sickly joys;
> But in the service of mankind to be
> A guardian good below, still to employ
> The mind's brave ardor in heroic aims,
> Such as may raise us o'er the groveling herd
> And make us shine forever: — this is life."

The tabernacle is empty; what gave it its dignity and its beauty has passed to its home in the paradise of our God. Let us carry it tenderly, reverently, to its home in the grave. But we look upward and faith sees the great company of the triumphant and crowned, unto whom, through the grace of our Lord, Ira Harris is joined.

And when for us, too, the storms shall be over and the struggles of this life be ended, the farewell we have so

sadly spoken shall become a glad greeting, and reunited in fellowship our joy shall be unclouded for ever. "For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him."

"Ashes to ashes, dust to dust;
He is gone who seem'd so great—
Gone; but nothing can bereave him
Of the force he made his own
Being here, and we believe him
Something far advanced in state;
And that he wears a truer crown
Than any wreath that man can weave him."

Prayer was then offered by Rev. Dr. E. Halley.

The solemn services were brought to an end by the pronunciation of the benediction by President J. H. Raymond, after which the funeral procession was formed in the following order:

Casket, containing the following inscription:

Ira Harris,

Born May 31, 1802; Died Dec. 2, 1875.

Pall bearers, as follows:

William F. Allen,	John T. Hoffman,
Bradford R. Wood,	Thomas Fearey,
Thomas W. Olcott,	George Dexter,
Harmon Pumpelly,	Henry H. Martin.

Deacons and Trustees of the Emmanuel Baptist Church.

Judges of the Court of Appeals.

Trustees of the Cemetery Association.

Trustees of the Mechanics and Farmers' bank.

President and Members of the Faculty of Union College.

Members of the Bar.

Faculty and Students of the Law and Medical Schools.

The funeral cortege was then formed, and wended its way to the Rural Cemetery. The procession was a very large one, upwards of twenty-five carriages being in line.

AT THE GRAVE.

The relatives and friends gathered about the open grave, when Dr. Bridgman spoke the last mournful yet hopeful words, as follows:

"The Lord hath given, and the Lord hath taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord." "I know that my Redeemer liveth, and at the latter day will stand upon the earth." "Jesus said unto her, I am the Resurrection and the Life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die." May the grace of Him who is the Resurrection and the Life, the love of God the Father, and the communion of Him who is the Comforter, abide with us in our sorrow, and forevermore. Amen.

MEMORIAL SERVICE.

AT the Emmanuel Baptist church Sunday morning, after a sermon of remarkable power and pathos, on the heavenly citizenship, the ordinance of the Lord's supper was administered. The vacant chair at the right of the pastor was draped in mourning, and covered with the floral offerings which had testified to the affection of friends in the service of Saturday. The floral cross was placed on the pulpit at the head of the chair; and the well-filled golden sheaf of wheat was at the foot of the cross. The mementos were deeply suggestive. Sadly and almost silently the simple service proceeded; gathering solemnity as the moments passed away. The sorrow of that

hour so filled the church that it seemed that an outstretched hand might even *feel* it, and test its loneliness by the sense of touch. The impressive service was thus a memorial one in a double sense; and touching and tender to a degree rarely witnessed. At the close of the service, the pastor remarked, with an emotion which excited intense pity for his great grief:

"This chair, in the mourning it wears and by these flowers, must utter the lesson to you, beloved, which my lips cannot speak. He who gave me the welcome when I came as your pastor: the only one who was left to me of the deacons who first served with me at this table, is gone to the presence of God. A strong staff has been broken. A revered friend is now with the dead. I cannot speak more. Let these silent symbols express the grief of my heart."

Then the members of Emmanuel church left the holy place, realizing the great void which had been made by death.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ALBANY BAR.

THE members of the bar of Albany met in the county court room at one o'clock Saturday, December 4, 1875, with Henry Smith in the chair, and William H. Greene and D. Cady Herrick acting as secretaries.

Mr. Isaac Edwards moved a committee of seven to report resolutions relative to the death of Judge Harris at an adjourned meeting. Carried.

The chair named Messrs. Isaac Edwards, Amasa J. Parker, William L. Learned, Charles M. Jenkins, Matthew Hale, Rufus W. Peckham, George L. Stedman.

The meeting then adjourned till Thursday next at one P.M., and the members proceeded in a body to Judge Harris's funeral.

An adjourned meeting of the bar of Albany county was held in the court room, City Hall, at one o'clock Thursday afternoon. Hon. Henry Smith presided and called the meeting to order, when

Mr. Isaac Edwards, chairman of the committee on resolutions, presented the following preamble and resolutions, which were adopted:

Death removes all titles of courtesy, and brings us to the naked words of truth. Ira Harris was fortunate in his birth, in a country district, in circumstances that did not raise him in his boyhood above actual toil, and yet gave him the means of education; in his lineage, derived from two distinct and strongly marked races, and in that splendid physical constitution which carried him

through so many years in perfect health. He was fortunate, also, in his temperament, in that fine combination of qualities which enabled him to work with vigor under all circumstances, without too much excitement.

He was fortunate, too, in his mental endowments, in that rare gift of language, which enabled him to present a subject or unfold principles of law with luminous clearness and precision; and in that grasp and vigor of intellect which enabled him to unravel and disentangle with ease the most complicated transactions; in that clear discernment which seized the principle ruling a subject, like a line of light, and brought it at once into the simplest forms of common sense.

Rising into a still higher realm, his religious sentiments were quick and vivid, and his moral sense ruled through his life like a higher law of humanity and beneficence. He was at home in all places, and entirely free with all classes of society.

He loved men, and it was a secret of great power; he loved the city, and strove manfully to do it service and honor; he was proud of his state, and nobly did he serve her through many faithful and laborious years; like the rest of us, he rejoiced in the rising grandeur of the republic, and as a senator in congress gave himself to her service with all his experience and faculties and energies, through the long years of agony and civil war; those years that seemed like ages, marching slowly with iron feet.

Educated in Union college, Mr. Harris was twenty-five years of age when he commenced his professional life in Albany. For the ensuing twenty years he kept his place at the bar with all that fidelity, patient endurance and unflagging industry which were so conspicuous elements in his character. At the end of that period he took his place upon the bench of the supreme court, forty-five years of age.

Here he began a new career, with the masculine virtues

appropriate to the judicial office, love of justice, absolutely temperate habits of life and thought, an intellect enriched by much study and disciplined by the usual trials of life. As we all know, he was equal to the demands of that high office; for twelve years he discharged its duties under the new code, with such wide intelligence, good sense and deep discernment that he came easily to the front rank of the able bench of that court, from time to time taking his place among the judges of the highest court with equal success and distinction.

He possessed a finely-balanced judicial mind, with a perceptible bias in favor of the principles of equity, where they could be applied, in preference to the sterner and more rigid rules of the common law. He studied law in the office of Ambrose Spencer, and he was the apt scholar of the great equity judge, Chancellor Kent.

He loved open and round dealing, and he detested deceit and fraud in all its forms; he showed this decidedly in one marked instance when, with one of his associates in the court of appeals, he dissented from the opinion of the majority, insisting that a merchant deals fraudulently who, though unquestioned, purchases goods without having the means to pay for them, in contemplation of his failure.

His courtesy in the hearing and trial of causes, his untiring diligence and facility in the dispatch of business, and his very great ability, learning and skill in the administration of law, are well remembered; they gave him the just ascendancy which accrues from great and valuable public services.

Soon after leaving the bench, Judge Harris became a a candidate for the much prized seat of senator in congress. At the beginning of the canvass both of his distinguished competitors could count upon the most votes, and the judge upon the greatest number of steadfast and unflinching friends.

The result was, therefore, certain from the beginning; he was chosen by the legislature to represent the state of New York, in the United States senate, early in '61, in the opening scene of that great drama, the civil war; his age was fifty-eight; he was in the prime of his powers, a cool, disciplined, sagacious senator.

He came to his seat in that high council with the advantage of four years' experience in the legislature of his own state; equipped with a complete knowledge of the organic law, he was the peer of the ablest senator on the floor. The manner in which he served his state and the republic through the six years that followed, is known of all men; how he forgot all minor questions of party feeling and local strife in the deep love and service of our common country. How he labored incessantly in committee and in council to strengthen the civil arm of the government, and with what constancy and courage he supported every branch of the public service, fills a bright page in the history of those memorable days — a proud record, quite sufficient to satisfy the hunger of an ambitious spirit.

The spirit of the man appears with equal lustre in the less public walks of life; in those relations he held to the Rochester university and to Union college; in his connection with the Albany Law school, and that long succession of classes that have studied law here under his instruction from the time the school was organized until the day of his death — young men that under his tuition came to revere and love him and carry away his words of wisdom and courage as among the precious things of life.

As an educator in this department, Judge Harris deserves well of the country; his qualifications for the work were most abundant; rich in the resources of experience and learning, and in the affluence of his great heart, he could instruct and interest and inspire his students, and lead them into a true knowledge of both the art and science

of the law; a work of love with him, which filled up all his spare time, even in the busiest years of his public life.

He came into the world one of nature's favorites, gifted with manifold powers that fitted him for every duty and every science; and he was so felicitous in the successive stages and events of his life that all men have come at length to see in his career something more than rare good fortune, and have come to feel what his friends felt all the while, that here was a personality of original greatness. Great in natural gifts, and great in the multiplied labors of many years, he comes to the close of life with

> "That which should accompany age,
> As love, honor, and troops of friends."

Therefore,

Resolved, That in the death of Ira Harris, Albany loses a citizen illustrious by life-long and public services; our profession one who has conferred dignity and honor upon the administration of justice; and the state and nation a statesman who proved himself able and faithful in times of trial and danger.

Resolved, That we tender to the family and kindred of the deceased our sympathy with them in their affliction, and in the consolations of that Christian faith in which our brother lived a life so filled with works of charity and good will to men.

Respectfully submitted,

ISAAC EDWARDS,
AMASA J. PARKER,
WILLIAM L. LEARNED,
MATTHEW HALE,
R. W. PECKHAM,
CHARLES M. JENKINS,
G. L. STEDMAN.

Remarks of Hon. Lyman Tremain.

Mr. Chairman—To these touching and eloquent eulogies, expressed in language better than I can employ, I will venture to add only a few observations.

How rich and valuable a harvest has the sickle of death gathered, during the last three months, among the eminent and honored jurists of our noble commonwealth! On the roll of these distinguished dead, the name of Judge Ira Harris must now be added to the names of Judges Woodruff, Grover, Reynolds and Wright. This mournful event which, though for some time feared, it was hoped might be averted, has produced a universal sense of sorrow and bereavement, and led to this assemblage of that profession to which the deceased belonged, and of which he was a prominent and conspicuous member.

By this dispensation of Providence, our city has lost an illustrious citizen, the state one of its best known and most honored ornaments, and the church of which he was an officer one of its strongest earthly pillars.

For more than a quarter of a century, Judge Harris has occupied so commanding a place in the consideration of his fellow men, and we were so accustomed to see his tall and impressive form moving among us, in the vigor of that superior strength of constitution with which nature had endowed him, that, notwithstanding his advanced years, his death produced a shock which was felt throughout the entire community. That death will create a vacancy in the faculty of our flourishing Law school; in the institutions of learning, whereof he was the trustee, patron and friend; in the legal profession, of which he was a venerable and honored leader, and in the many religious, charitable and benevolent societies with which he was associated.

Judge Harris discharged with fidelity, credit and honor the responsible duties of the various exalted positions to which he was called by the partiality of his countrymen.

As counselor at law, as an active member of his church, as a representative in the assembly of New York, as state senator, as a delegate to the constitutional convention, which framed the constitution of 1846, as justice of the supreme court, and ex-officio judge of the court of last resort, as a senator of the United States from the state of New York, as a delegate from the state at large to the constitutional commission of 1867, and as a law lecturer in the University of Albany, Ira Harris proved equal to the demands made upon him, and by his learning, ability, good judgment, sound sense, and faithful and conscientious devotion to his public duties, he acquired and retained the confidence and regard of the public.

To a life so fruitful and a career so exalted as that of Judge Harris, the present is not an opportune occasion to render full justice. That office belongs more appropriately to the historian or the biographer. The press and the pulpit of the city have already made graceful and fitting contributions in honor of his memory. To-day the bar, in accordance with a beautiful and honored custom, when one who has achieved merited distinction in the ranks of the profession dies, have assembled to express their sense of the loss which they have sustained; their appreciation of his merits; their sympathy with the afflicted mourners, and to weave a wreath of cypress to lay upon his tomb.

Judge Harris has fallen like a shock of corn fully ripe. He has entered the portals of the grave full of years and full of honors. He had passed the limits of the threescore and ten years allotted to mortals. Others are more familiar than myself with his early history. Others have witnessed those struggles through which every lawyer must pass before he can reach the height in the temple of

our professional fame which had been attained by Judge Harris.

When my first acquaintance with him commenced, his sun had already reached the meridian. He was in the full vigor of maturity.

The first election for judges of the supreme court in this state was held in 1847, under the provisions of the constitution which Judge Harris had aided in preparing. The people in this judicial district, with discriminating impartiality, elected two of the candidates from each ticket nominated by the opposing political parties of that day, and among these was Ira Harris. We are forcibly reminded of the havoc which death is continually making among the most eminent members of our profession, when we recall the fact that of the eight candidates presented at that election for supreme court justice, four at least have been gathered to their fathers — Wright, Hogeboom, Watson and Harris.

During the twelve years that Judge Harris held the office of supreme court justice, he acquired the reputation of being one of the ablest judges of the state. In the volumes of our *Law Reports*, which are probably destined to endure for centuries to come, his name and fame have become permanently identified with the jurisprudence of the state. He possessed very great influence with the juries he was accustomed to charge while holding the circuits. He presented the facts of the most complicated case, with the rules of law bearing upon them, with singular clearness and force. He always sought to ascertain the real equity of the causes that were brought before him for adjudication, and this he never lost sight of by attempting to follow the line of precedents. He declined to yield to the force of previous adjudications, when the necessary effect would be to produce a judgment at war with the intrinsic merits and justice of the case.

He abhorred corruption, fraud, oppression, injustice and wrong, and whenever these were revealed upon a trial before him, they were laid bare and denounced with startling emphasis and power. It was the good fortune of Ira Harris to represent the state of New York in the senate of the United States during the entire period of the late war—by far the most exciting and interesting era in our national history. He enjoyed the entire confidence of the lamented Lincoln, and was one of the firmest supporters of the war measures adopted by the government. He held important positions upon the committees of the senate, and his vote, his speeches and his influence were always in favor of the most efficient and vigorous means to overthrow the rebellion, and to maintain the unity and integrity of the nation.

During the latter years of his life he was engaged in delivering law lectures in the Albany Law school, and thousands of young lawyers throughout the Union, who have been instructed by his wisdom and learning, will experience sentiments of profound sorrow as they learn of the decease of their respected teacher. Possessing a powerful and commanding frame, with a broad and benevolent face, nature seemed to have stamped upon him the impress of superiority above his fellows. His tastes were scholarly and elevated, his conversation dignified and chaste, his manners courteous and affable, and he will long be remembered as a cultured Christian gentleman.

These frequent visitations from the grim messenger serve to remind us, forcibly, of our own mortality and of the fleeting duration of the longest human life. No preacher's voice is necessary to give emphasis and point to their solemn lessons. Each thoughtful member of our profession will apply them to his own heart and conscience. Fortunate will it be for us all, if they teach us to be more kind and charitable; to perform more good works while

life lasts; to live higher, better, nobler lives; to eschew evil, and to exemplify the familiar advice of the poet:

"So live that when thy summons comes to join
The innumerable caravan which moves
To that mysterious realm where each shall take
His chamber in the silent halls of death,
Thou go not, like the quarry slave at night
Scourged to his dungeon; but sustained and soothed
By an unfaltering trust, approach thy grave
Like one who wraps the drapery of his couch
About him, and lies down to pleasant dreams."

Hon. Amasa J. Parker. spoke as follows.

Mr. Chairman—I cannot let the present occasion pass without saying a few words of tribute to the memory of our deceased friend.

My acquaintance with Judge Harris began in early life, and it is now about thirty-three years since I first met him in professional encounter. I recollect well the occasion. It was on the trial of a patent case of considerable length and importance, at a term of the United States circuit court, held in this city by Judge Thompson. I found him an able and faithful lawyer and a courteous opponent. Two years later, when I removed to this city and entered upon the duties of circuit judge and vice chancellor, Judge Harris, was one of the able lawyers then in full professional practice here. Daniel Cady, even then venerable for his years, his learning and his integrity, was at that time residing in Albany, a leader in the courts. There were here several others, justly distinguished in the profession. Marcus T. Reynolds, always sharp, able, witty and concise, Samuel Stevens, a man of indomitable energy and great mental vigor, Nicholas Hill, even then holding a high place before the courts of review, where he afterwards became so distinguished, and Azor Taber, a faithful

and accomplished lawyer, whose briefs showed great research and thought, were all in the foremost rank. Most prominent perhaps at the circuit were Henry G. Wheaton and Rufus W. Peckham. In mentioning these, I do not mean to overlook or undervalue others not named, of the strong bar then established here.

The taste of Judge Harris did not lead him often to the circuit, but he held a high place in the profession, and was frequently before me at the chancery terms, opposed to the ablest men I have named, and engaged in the heaviest litigations.

Circumstances subsequently brought us more closely together in the discharge of similar duties, and an intimate association with him during eight years' service upon the supreme court bench, and nearly a score of years in the Law school of the Albany university, satisfied me how well he was entitled to my love and respect. I am happy to be able to say that the friendship so long and so pleasantly existing between us did not cease with our terms of office, but was uninterrupted to the day of his death.

Judge Harris was a man of rare gifts and qualities. As a judge, he was upright, patient and untiring in his pursuit of truth and justice. His habits of industry and the facility with which he studied and wrote, enabled him to dispatch a large amount of business. As a lecturer in the Law school, he acquired a just popularity, and he has made an impress for good on the minds of great numbers of young men in our profession, now scattered over all the states.

But, Mr. Chairman, while I look back with satisfaction upon the past and the good that has been accomplished, I am deeply impressed with the mortality which marks it. Of the four judges of the supreme court elected in this district on the organization of the court in 1847, Judges Watson, Wright and Harris have all left us. I alone re-

main. Of those who followed us upon the bench, Gould, Hogeboom and Peckham have died, and none remain but those recently elected.

Of those who founded the Law school and labored in it till it reached its established reputation, Dean and Harris are both now gone, and I again am the sole survivor.

Of all those eminent lawyers whom I have named not one remains, and new men have succeeded to their places.

I have spoken of the lawyers here of thirty years ago as learned and able men, of high professional distinction; and so they were. But do not understand me, Mr. Chairman, as underrating those who have followed them. I am not one of those who believe the profession is deteriorating. It may be that the few are now less marked because there is less contrast in comparison with their fellows, the learning and ability being more diffused and extended to a greater number. But I believe, Mr. Chairman, that the future will do justice to the present as I have done to the past, and that in learning and ability my brethren here around me fall, in no respect, short of those who have preceded them, and will be so estimated by those who shall follow them.

Mr. Chairman, our friend who has just left us died with his armor on, earnestly laboring till the end to benefit his race and to discharge the whole duty of an active life. In this, too, we commend his memory. We all owe a duty to the world which can never be fully discharged by relinquishing labor while we are still capable of being useful. We should never be content to "lag superfluous on the stage."

We are laboring in a profession of which we are justly proud, to do good to our fellow men; to secure to those we represent their just rights; to resist oppression; to protect the innocent and to punish the guilty; and happy may he well be who, when he finishes his work here, can

lie down, as did our deceased friend, with an approving conscience, and the good opinion of the world around him.

REMARKS OF WILLIAM H. GREENE.

Mr. Chairman — The venerable form of Ira Harris, except in grateful memory, is now, to living men, but as its kindred dust. From the void his decease has made, these expressions of our grief return to us like echoes. They seem not to pierce his ears.

A human spirit that has been for half a century a power in the ongoing of our life, political, professional, social and religious, has ceased its office here, only to enter, as we believe, upon nobler and higher service.

It was the distinguished merit of our departed friend that his great faculties were subjugated to the uses of culture, benevolence, honor and religion.

In the uplifting of his fellow men, as public teacher, jurist, statesman and Christian leader, he was eminently useful and his influence steady, commanding and beneficent. His was no scorching and inconstant blaze, but a light unwavering, cheering and luminous.

With many men the sympathies are deadened at middle life and dead in old age. His to the last seemed to gush forth from a fountain of perennial youth. His heart was in his work, and continuing it far into the decline of life, he fell at last at the post of duty.

Hundreds in the learned profession all over our land cherish his instruction, his friendly counsels, his generous kindness; other hundreds his Christian teaching and example; and all, his public career as a jurist and a statesman.

As one who sat under his instruction in the law school and felt the value of his encouragement, I cannot withhold this slight tribute to his distinguished career, his preëminent abilities, and his moral worth.

J. Albert Wilson said:

Mr. Chairman — Scientific men tell us that the emotions of grief and pleasure are so closely allied in the human breast as at times to be almost identical, while frequently their outward signs and expressions are quite so.

Mourning, as I do to-day, the loss of one whom I, in common with many others, have long regarded with almost filial affection, I still experience a mournful pleasure in listening to the many acknowledgments paid to his worth and manhood by those who knew him in life.

I can say but little that has not already been said, and ably said, yet I feel unwilling to let the moment pass without adding my mite of tribute to the memory of the honored dead. And yet, what shall I say? The whole wealth of the English language affords not words to express the unformed utterances of a full heart. I can little more than utter the mournful plaint of Antony — "He was my friend."

Some few years ago, while attending that law school with which the name of Judge Harris was long identified, I first formed his acquaintance. From him, and from his able associates, I received my first instruction in the fundamental principles of that science of which he, for nearly half a century, was a bright and shining light; and there, listening daily to the words of wisdom which fell from his lips, I learned to honor and revere him as a man and a lawyer: and to love him as a friend.

But his kindly interest in those he instructed did not stop with imparting to them principles of law; with furnishing to them weapons with which to fight professional battles and gain professional victories. He also invited them to his house, encouraged them to come and converse with him there, and, though his time was much burdened with many demands, he would always cheerfully lay down

pen or book to entertain and counsel his young friends — "his boys" — as he fondly called them.

Well do I remember, upon such an occasion, closeted with him in his study, conversing with him upon the *ethics* of law, how, in response to a remark of mine upon the popular law fallacy, that "No man can engage in the struggles of the legal arena and long retain his purity of character," — his earnest, almost stern, rejoinder — "Should you, in the course of your professional life, ever discover that its temptations are too strong for you, quit the law; better to be a poor but honest layman than a dishonest though successful lawyer." At the same time, he earnestly contested the theory I have mentioned, and with his life spread upon the public records for my inspection, could I fail to appreciate the justice of his criticism?

Mr. Chairman, it has been said, and truly said, that "an honest man is the noblest work of God." I challenge the memory of all who hear me, of the whole country, of the whole world; I challenge the pages of history in all times and in all countries, to produce to me one name more worthy to be dignified with that appellation than the name of him we mourn, the name of Ira Harris.

His grave requires no monument of stone, for throughout his whole life he ever recognized the fact that

"All are architects of Fate;"

and by his many virtues during life, he has piled for himself a monument higher than the highest pyramid; more enduring than granite, and fairer than the whitest marble.

From the vast lakes upon the north to the gulf of Mexico; from the rock-bound coasts of Maine to the sea-line of the Pacific; in every state, in every community, the death of Ira Harris will create a void in many a heart;

for he was universally known and as universally beloved by all who knew him. Shakespeare has said:

> "The evil that men do lives after them;
> The good is oft interred with their bones."

Doubtless, not without faults, for he was but human; quiet and unostentatious in doing good; such might be the fate of our honored townsman, were it not that his many excellencies throughout life have so overshadowed his failings, as to render the latter nearly if not quite indistinguishable.

Alike at the bar and in the political arena, he was ever found a brave and generous foe, striving for the right, according to his convictions, "with a spirit that knew no mastery." Upon the bench he was a truly upright judge; fearless and conscientious in the discharge of his duty; kind and lenient to the unfortunates, but a terror to evil-doers. Socially, he was kind and genial, though dignified, as becoming in one of his position.

To the poor he was a kind friend, and the last time I met him, but a few weeks since, he was bound upon an errand of mercy.

While we cannot pierce that mysterious vail which for a little moment hides him from our view, let us not think of him as dead — for,

> "There is no death, what seems so is transition,"

and —

> "It is but into Life we die."

The meeting then adjourned.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE TRUSTEES AND FACULTY OF THE ALBANY LAW SCHOOL.

AT a meeting of the trustees and faculty of the Albany Law school, convened on the occasion of the death of Hon. Ira Harris, the following minute was adopted and the secretary requested to transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased :

In the death of the Hon. Ira Harris the trustees of the Albany Law school have lost a wise and trusted counselor, the faculty a valued and ever faithful friend and associate, and the school an apt, successful and popular teacher.

Judge Harris, as one of the founders of the institution and instructor of its classes until the close of his life, labored without ceasing for its establishment and success, and to his efforts very much of its prosperity may be attributed.

As a professor and teacher, he brought to the discharge of his duties a rich and varied experience at the bar and upon the bench of the highest courts of the state and in the legislatures of the state and nation, a cultured intellect, a mind well stored with the history and principles of the law and jurisprudence, as well as the literature and science of law, together with a marked dignity and courtesy of manner. These qualities, with a genuine kindness of heart prompting him to a sincere interest in the welfare of each individual student, combined with a peculiar aptness in imparting instruction, enabling him to simplify and make plain the most abstruse branches of the law, gave him great success as a teacher, endeared him to the

students and render his loss almost irreparable. The exalted civil positions to which Judge Harris was called during his long and honored life and the places filled by him at the time of his death in the governing boards of very many educational and benevolent institutions, attest the esteem in which he was held by the public as well as by those who knew him most intimately and the confidence reposed in him by all. We mourn him dead, who, while living, we loved and respected as a useful and public-spirited citizen, a Christian gentleman, a faithful friend, in every relation of life manifesting qualities commanding the respect and calling forth the affections of all classes. We mourn his loss in common with his many friends throughout the land and tender to his immediate family and kindred our sincere condolences upon the irreparable loss which they have sustained.

William F. Allen,
Isaac Edwards,
William L. Learned,
Faculty.

Thomas W. Olcott,
President of the Board of Trustees.
E. N. Potter,
President of Union University.

PROCEEDINGS OF ALBANY LAW SCHOOL.

WHEN the Albany Law school convened this morning, December 3d, 1875, the Hon. Matthew Hale addressed the school as follows:

Gentlemen of the Law School: The painful duty is imposed on me this morning to formally announce to you the death of Hon. Ira Harris, which occurred yesterday morning. As you are all aware Judge Harris has been connected with this school from its foundation, a period I believe, of some twenty-five years. When he commenced his duties here, and for some time afterwards, he adorned the bench of the supreme court in this state. Subsequently he was elected to the senate of the United States and held various positions of public trust. But during all this time, and however exalted were the positions he was holding, he continued his connection with this school, and I think I may truly say that of all his numerous duties, those that he loved best, and to which he devoted the most time and care, were the labors performed here in teaching the principles and duties of the legal profession to young men preparing for the bar. How faithfully and successfully he performed these duties, can be testified by hundreds of lawyers, graduates of this school, now practicing their profession in various parts of the country.

In view of these facts, and of the great loss this school has sustained, it has been thought to be fitting that the usual exercises of the school should be suspended for the remainder of this week. The members of the school are

requested to meet at this place to-morrow afternoon at 1:30 o'clock to proceed in a body to the funeral.

Afterwards the following resolutions were passed:

Whereas, It has pleased the Divine Master to take from us our kind preceptor, the Hon. Ira Harris, we, the members of the law department of Union university, feeling most keenly the loss we sustain, do

Resolve, I. That in his death we have lost a preceptor whose marked attainments, coupled with his sincere and devoted interest in our advancement, have endeared him lastingly to each of us.

II. That while we deplore our loss we sympathize with his mourning family and friends in their hour of affliction.

III. That in token of our deep regret we attend his funeral in a body, and wear the customary badge of mourning for thirty days.

IV. That a copy of this preamble and resolutions be tendered to the family of the deceased, published in the daily papers, and that the registrar of Union university be requested to incorporate this memorial in the records of the institution.

E. D. Miller,
Charles B. Hubbell,
Tracy C. Becker,
Committee.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FACULTY OF UNION COLLEGE.

To the widow and children of the Hon. Ira Harris, lately deceased.

According to a resolution of the faculty of Union college, we tender to you their profound sympathy in your late bereavement. In the loss to the institution represented by us, we are the better able to appreciate the grief of those who were near to the deceased by the ties of family and relationship. The well known public estimation of your distinguished head supersedes the necessity of any formal eulogium of his senatorial and judicial life. It is his worth as a member of our own literary body that demands and receives from us the heartiest testimony. As a graduate of one of Union's most distinguished classes, himself distinguished among others noted for scholarship, science, and professional eminence, he fully justified the high esteem ever felt for him as one of the prominent sons of the college. As trustee, as counselor, as ever faithful friend, and, for a season, its acting president, his memory is endeared to all who love the institution and rejoice in its prosperity.

In this hearty expression we but speak the sentiment of all the alumni of the college to whom Judge Harris was so well known.

That this tender of sympathy may bring with it some consolation in a bereavement that Divine Grace alone can

heal is the sincere hope and prayer of each one of us as individuals, and as representatives of Union university.

Signed Dec. 3, 1875.

Tayler Lewis,
I. W. Jackson,
John Foster,
Jonathan Pearson,
In behalf of the President and Faculty of Union College.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF UNION COLLEGE.

AT a meeting of the board of trustees of Union College, held at the Medical College, in the city of Albany, on the 26th inst., the Hon. Clarkson N. Potter offered the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That this board desires to express its deep regret at the loss which the college and the public have sustained by the death, since the last meeting of the board, of two of their oldest and most distinguished associates — the Hon. Ira Harris, LL.D., of Albany, and the Hon. Richard Blatchford, LL.D., of New York.

Judge Harris was the senior member of this body, having entered the board in 1848. He had long taken an active and leading part in the board, had of late years presided as its chairman, and had, after the resignation of Dr. Hickock, acted for a time as the head of the faculty, and president of the college, and had, besides, been long at the head of the department of law instruction in the university.

Mr. Blatchford was but little his junior in service, having entered the board in 1850, and having been, during all the subsequent years, an active, wise and useful participant in its councils.

Both these gentlemen were alumni of more than fifty years' standing, and both had attained a success and distinction in their profession and in public life, which did honor to their *Alma Mater*. Judge Harris long sat with eminence on the bench of the highest courts of the state, and had represented the state in the national senate. Mr.

Blatchford had served usefully in the legislature of this state, and had successfully represented the nation as one of its foreign ministers.

Both these gentlemen had been fast friends of their revered instructor, President Nott, and had extended their affection for him to the college; both had served it steadfastly through all trials: both lived to rejoice in its increased prosperity, and both have died full of years and of honors.

This board, with a profound sense of the loss the country and the college have sustained by their death, desire to now place upon record this declaration of its sense of their services and their worth.

Resolved, That the clerk of this board be directed to forward a copy of these resolutions to the families of the deceased.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF VASSAR COLLEGE.

AT a regular meeting of the executive committee of Vassar college, held in Poughkeepsie, N. Y., on Monday, December 6, 1875, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That this committee have received with profound regret intelligence of the death of the Honorable Ira Harris, chairman of the board of trustees of this college, and *ex officio* member of its executive committee.

Resolved, That the committee would cordially unite with their fellow-citizens of all classes in this state, and throughout the union, to honor the memory of one whose career has so signally illustrated all the virtues of public and private character. Standing in the foremost rank of men for dignity of person and mien, native force of intellect, large attainments, and varied culture, nobleness and tenderness of heart, and enlightened strength of Christian principle, and called by Providence and his countrymen to occupy for many years conspicuous positions of honor and power, he consecrated all his gifts, and all his influence to the worthiest ends. He was exemplary alike in public and in private relations; his mind eminently judicial, his spirit catholic and kind, his views comprehensive and just. An incorruptible patriot and an enlightened statesman, a sound jurist, an able and eloquent teacher of the law, a wise counselor, a faithful friend, a loving husband, son, and father, and a willing burden-bearer in the church of Christ, he served with equal constancy his country, his friends,

his family, and his God; and in his death every good cause, whether of education, of philanthropy, or of religion, mourns the loss of a staunch and strong supporter.

Resolved, That, in the judgment of the committee, the share sustained by this college in the general bereavement is peculiarly large. Honored in a special manner with the confidence of its founder and trustees, he has not disappointed the trust reposed in him. As one of the original members of the board, and for the last three years its presiding officer, he has given to the enterprise his unwavering sympathy and his active support; and the withdrawal of his counsels will be felt in its future management as a privation to be deeply deplored.

Resolved, That the president be requested to transmit a copy of these resolutions to the family of our deceased associate, with an assurance of the sincere sympathy of the committee in a sorrow whose keenest pang must be theirs, a pang only to be assuaged by the consolations of that religion which was his guide through life and his support in death.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER.

University of Rochester,
December, 6th, 1875.

MEMORANDUM.

THE death of Hon. Ira Harris, LL.D., one of the trustees of this university from its origin, and its chancellor, calls upon the members of this board for a formal expression of the respect and affection with which they, and the patrons of the university, have ever regarded him.

We cherish with gratitude and reverence the memory of Judge Harris in his vigorous and decided action in the events which determined the organization of this institution, in his services for three years of special oversight of its interests when without a regular presiding officer, in the wisdom of his counsels and the weight of his influence in times of anxiety and peril, in the personal friendship and kindly sympathy which he has always manifested to the resident trustees and officers of instruction.

In common with our fellow citizens at large we recognize in his more public life that combination of sound and disciplined intellect with broad legal learning and unsullied honor which distinguished his career as a judge and a teacher of law.

In his services of our state and nation as a legislator, we recall the intelligence, steadfastness and patriotism with which he consecrated his entire powers to the promotion of the public welfare in the conflict with treason and rebellion in our years of sorest national peril.

In his private relations we recognize those elements of

mind and heart which made him an impressive and beautiful illustration of those social, domestic and Christian virtues which so dignify and elevate our earthly life.

And we tender to his afflicted family, in this their day of bereavement, our heartfelt sympathy.

At an informal meeting of the executive board of the trustees of the university, the above memorandum was presented, and unanimously adopted.

Attest.

William N. Sage,
Secretary.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE COLUMBIAN UNIVERSITY AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

IT was not fitting that a distinguished citizen so well known and highly honored in Washington as the late ex-Senator Ira Harris, of New York, should be allowed to pass away without receiving an appropriate tribute of respect from such of our citizens as had the good fortune to know him best in the walks of both private and public life. Among those who were favored with such opportunities are the gentlemen composing the board of trustees of the Columbian university, the law school of which had for a time the advantage of receiving an annual course of lectures from this distinguished jurist and faithful statesman. At the meeting of the board of trustees, the following resolution was adopted and ordered to be recorded on the journal of the board, in token of the respect cherished by its members for the manifold virtues and graces which adorned the character of the deceased:

Resolved, That we hereby record the profound regret with which we have received the intelligence of the recent death of the Hon. Ira Harris, of New York, who, after having filled a conspicuous place at the bar of his native state, and after wearing without spot or blemish the judicial ermine with which he adorned her tribunals of justice, became more especially known to us not only as the honest and enlightened statesman, speaking words of truth and soberness in the highest legislative hall of the country, but as the learned and lucid expositor of American law, the principles of which he unfolded to successive classes in our law school with no less of honor to himself than

of usefulness to this institution, which, since the decline of his health, has been called to mourn the loss of his valued services, and the friends of which, now that he is no more, will not omit to cherish his memory with the respect due to commanding talents graced with the amenities of scholarly culture and sanctified to noblest ends by the inspirations of an unaffected and simple-hearted piety.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ALBANY MEDICAL COLLEGE.

THE board of trustees of the Albany Medical College adopted the following:

WHEREAS, the Hon. Ira Harris, one of the members of this institution, and for many years its president, has died full of years and honor, be it

Resolved, That in his death the Albany Medical College loses one to whose labors it is greatly indebted, whose counsels have ever been freely and judiciously given to its care and successful management; whose sympathies, always going out to all forms of sufferings, have recognized in this medical college an instrument and agency for sending out, year by year, those who should, more than almost any others, administer to suffering humanity in its various phases.

Resolved, That his death leaves in this board a great void, and removes an officer of whom it can be said that neither the pressure of private affairs, of professional duties, nor the cares and responsibilities of elevated public station, have ever caused him to neglect a duty or sacrifice an interest committed to his charge.

Resolved, That in his death the state has sustained the loss of an upright, honorable citizen, who, in official position, as a member of our assembly and state senator, upon the judicial bench, and later in the exalted position of United States senator at Washington, has ever maintained a purity and dignity in public life that entitled him to the highest respect of the community at large.

Resolved, That while we mourn our loss, we sympathize deeply with the surviving family of our late associate, now so sorely stricken.

Resolved, That these resolutions be entered upon the records of this board, a copy be transmitted to the family of the deceased, and that they be printed in the daily papers.

Resolved, That this board will attend the funeral of the deceased.

Thomas W. Olcott,
Vice President.

George Dexter,
Secretary.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ALBANY CEMETERY ASSOCIATION.

THE Albany Cemetery Association adopted the following preamble and resolutions:

WHEREAS, The death has been announced of Hon. Ira Harris, who, since its original organization, has been a trustee of the Albany Cemetery Association; therefore,

Resolved, That in his death this board has been deprived of the services of one who has always taken a deep interest in the management of its affairs, and whose counsel and advice has been of great benefit in promoting its success.

Resolved, That, in common with the mass of our fellow-citizens, we deplore the loss of one who was a credit to every public position which he occupied, and who was ever ready to aid in every good work, and that we condole with his mourning family and friends in their afflictions.

Resolved, That a copy of this preamble and resolutions be transmitted to the family of the deceased, and published in the daily papers.

THOMAS W. OLCOTT,
President.

CHARLES VAN BENTHUYSEN,
Secretary.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MECHANICS AND FARMERS' SAVINGS BANK.

AT a meeting of the board this day convened, it was

Resolved, That in the death of Ira Harris, a valued trustee of this board from its organization, we have lost a true friend and wise counselor, a man considerative, and just in all his relations to his fellow men, who by his great warmth of heart, dignity of manners, and integrity of character, commanded the admiration and love of all who knew him.

Truly a great man has fallen. But he yet lives in the bright example of an unsullied life, in the numerous institutions which he has served, and in the historic records of our state and nation. He also lives in the dignity which his commanding presence gave to the bench, which his legal mind elevated and adorned: and he will long live in that prominent benignity which in all his judicial acts tempered the austere mandate of law with the quality of mercy.

Resolved, That our secretary transmit a copy of these proceedings to the family of the deceased, with assurances of our warmest sympathy and regard.

DUDLEY OLCOTT,
Secretary.

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